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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/741,725	12/19/2000	Gary D. Sasaki	10004124-1	7533

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EXAMINER

SHERR, CRISTINA O

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3621

DATE MAILED: 06/12/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application N .

09/741,725

Applicant(s)

SASAKI ET AL.

Examiner

Cristina O Sherr

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 April 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☒ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is in response to Applicant's amendment received 11 April 2003. Claims 21 – 27 have been added to this application. Claims 1 – 27 are currently pending.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-11 and 21-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schneck et al (US 5,933,498A).

5. Regarding claim 1 –

Schneck discloses a portable media device, comprising a memory configured to store digital content; a wireless transceiver configured to wirelessly transmit and receive digital content; an output configured to render digital content; and a controller coupled to the memory, the wireless transceiver and the output, the controller being configured to control wireless transmission and rendering of digital content based upon meta-data associated with the digital content (col 6 ln 48 – col 8 ln 58).

6. Regarding claim 2 –

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Schneck discloses the device of claim 1, wherein the controller is configured to control playback of digital content stored in the memory based upon a user license confirmation (col 6 ln 48 – col 8 ln 58).

7. Regarding claim 3 –

Schneck discloses the device of claim 2, wherein the controller is configured to confirm a user license for a digital content based upon meta-data associated with the digital content (col 6 ln 48 – col 8 ln 58).

8. Regarding claim 4 –

Schneck discloses the device of claim 3, wherein the controller is configured to confirm a user license based upon a comparison of a user identifier embedded in the meta-data with a user identifier stored in the memory (col 6 ln 48 – col 8 ln 58).

9. Regarding claim 5 –

Schneck discloses the device of claim 2, wherein the controller is configured to limit playback of the digital content in response to a failed user license confirmation (col 6 ln 48 – col 8 ln 58).

10. Regarding claim 6 –

Schneck discloses the device of claim 5, wherein the controller is configured to enable playback of only a sample of the digital content in response to a failed user license confirmation (col 6 ln 48 – col 8 ln 58).

11. Regarding claim 7 –

Schneck discloses the device of claim 1, wherein the controller is configured to direct received digital content selectively to unrestricted memory storage or to restricted memory storage based upon a user license confirmation (col 6 ln 48 – col 8 ln 58).

12. Regarding claim 8 –

Schneck discloses the device of claim 7, wherein the controller is configured to direct licensed digital content to unrestricted memory storage and to direct unlicensed digital content to restricted memory storage (col 6 ln 48 – col 8 ln 58).

13. Regarding claim 9–

Schneck discloses the device of claim 7, wherein the controller is configured to restrict storage of unlicensed digital works to a predetermined quantity (col 6 ln 48 – col 8 ln 58).

14. Regarding claim 10 –

Schneck discloses the device of claim 7, wherein the controller is configured to enable wireless transmission of digital content stored in unrestricted memory and to prevent wireless transmission of digital content stored in restricted memory (col 6 ln 48 – col 8 ln 58).

15. Regarding claim 11 –

Schneck discloses the device of claim 1, wherein the controller is configured to decrypt encrypted digital content with a cryptographic key stored in the memory (col 6 ln 48 – col 8 ln 58).

16. Regarding claim 21 –

Schneck discloses the portable media device of claim 1, wherein the controller is configured to control wireless transmission and rendering of a particular digital content based upon a comparison of a user identifier embedded in meta-data associated with the particular digital content with a user identifier stored in the memory (col 6 ln 48 – col 8 ln 58).

17. Regarding claim 22 –

Schneck discloses the portable media device of claim 21, wherein the controller is configured to allow playback of the particular digital content subject to at least one playback restriction in response to a determination that the user identifier embedded in meta-data associated with the particular digital content fails to match any user identifier stored in the memory (col 6 ln 48 – col 8 ln 58).

18. Regarding claim 23 –

Schneck discloses the portable media device of claim 22, wherein the at least one playback restriction corresponds to a threshold number of playback times after which only a sample of the particular digital content is renderable by the portable media device until after the controller determines that the user identifier embedded in meta-data associated with the particular digital content matches a user identifier stored in the memory (col 6 ln 48 – col 8 ln 58).

19. Regarding claim 24 –

Schneck discloses the portable media device of claim 21, wherein the controller is configured to disable wireless transmission of the particular digital content in response to a determination that the user identifier embedded in meta-data associated with the

particular digital content fails to match any user identifier stored in the memory (col 6 ln 48 – col 8 ln 58).

20. Regarding claim 25 –

Schneck discloses the portable media device of claim 1, wherein the controller is configured to assemble a transfer file comprising an encryption key for decrypting encrypted digital content, to encrypt the transfer file with an encryption key received from a second portable media device, and to cause the encrypted transfer file to be transmitted wirelessly to the second portable media device (col 6 ln 48 – col 8 ln 58).

21. Regarding claim 26 –

Schneck discloses the portable media device of claim 1, wherein the controller is configured to change a license status identifier associated with a particular digital content from unlicensed to licensed in response to a determination that a content identifier associated with the particular digital content matches a content identifier stored in the memory and corresponding to a previously licensed digital content file (col 6 ln 48 – col 8 ln 58).

22. Regarding claim 27 –

Schneck discloses the portable media device of claim 1, wherein the controller is configured to transmit a user identifier assigned to the portable media device to a license manager after each transmission of digital content information from the portable media device to one or more other devices (col 6 ln 48 – col 8 ln 58).

23. Claims 12-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schneck et al (US 5,933,498A).

24. Regarding claim 12 –

Schneck discloses a digital content distribution system, comprising two or more portable media devices each comprising a memory for storing digital content and a transceiver for wirelessly transmitting digital content to and wirelessly receiving digital content from another portable media device; and a license manager configured to associate digital content with meta-data for controlling wireless transmission and rendering of digital content from one portable media device to another (col 6 ln 48 – col 8 ln 58).

25. Regarding claim 13 –

Schneck discloses the system of claim 12, wherein the licensed distributor is configured to embed a user identifier in meta-data associated with purchased digital content (col 6 ln 48 – col 8 ln 58).

26. Regarding claim 14 –

Schneck discloses the system of claim 12, wherein the license manager is configured to allocate incentives based upon meta-data associated with purchased digital content (col 6 ln 48 – col 8 ln 58).

27. Regarding claim 15 –

Schneck discloses the system of claim 12, wherein the license manager is configured to allocate an incentive to a digital content distributor in response to a purchase of the corresponding digital content by a user of a portable media device storing meta-data with an appropriate embedded distributor identifier (col 6 ln 48 – col 8 ln 58).

28. Regarding claim 16 –

Schneck discloses the system of claim 12, wherein the license manager is configured to allocate an incentive to a user of a portable media device containing restricted playback digital content in response to a purchase of the corresponding digital content by the user (col 6 ln 48 – col 8 ln 58).

29. Regarding claim 17 –

Schneck discloses the system of claim 12, further comprising a licensed distributor configured to transmit to one or more portable media devices meta-data associated with broadcasted digital content and containing an embedded distributor identifier (col 6 ln 48 – col 8 ln 58).

30. Regarding claim 18 –

Schneck discloses the system of claim 17, wherein the license manager is configured to allocate an incentive to the digital content distributor in response to a purchase of the corresponding digital content by a user of a portable media device storing the meta-data with the embedded distributor identifier (col 6 ln 48 – col 8 ln 58).

31. Regarding claim 19 –

Schneck discloses the system of claim 17, wherein the licensed distributor is configured to allocate incentives based upon meta-data associated with purchased digital content (col 6 ln 48 – col 8 ln 58).

32. Regarding claim 20 –

Schneck discloses the system of claim 17, wherein the licensed distributor is configured to allocate an incentive to a user of a portable media device containing restricted

playback digital content in response to a purchase of the corresponding digital content by the user (col 6 ln 48 – col 8 ln 58).

33. Examiner's note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may be applied as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant, in preparing the responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

Conclusion

34. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

35. Katz et al (US 5,926,624A) discloses a digital information library and delivery system with logic for generating files targeted to the playback device.

36. Tsumura et al (US 5,842,023A) discloses an information service processor.

37. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cristina O Sherr whose telephone number is 703-305-0625. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:30 to 5:00.

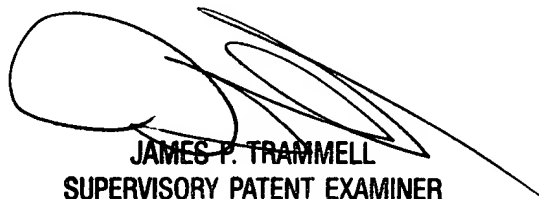
38. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on 703-305-9768. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-

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305-7687 for regular communications and 703-305-7687 for After Final communications.

39. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

June 6, 2003



JAMES P. TRAMMELL
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